United Nations A/70/1020–S/2016/721

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (a)
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Slovakia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is our honour to inform you that, on 21 June 2016, the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, Slovakia and South Africa, held a high-level dialogue on building support for security sector reform priorities in the Central African Republic. The event was organized in cooperation with the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and its secretariat, the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The event hosted representatives of the Central African Republic, the United Nations Integrated Stabilization Mission to the Central African Republic and key multilateral partners, including the United Nations, the European Union and the World Bank, as well as bilateral donors.

It is our pleasure to present to you the outcome of this high-level event. We enclose the co-chairs' statement (see annex), which highlights recommendations that emerged from our deliberations.

Please allow us to express our sincere gratitude and to commend the dedicated work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Sector Reform Unit. The Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform remains committed to supporting the United Nations in enhancing its role and approach to the security sector reform support process.

We should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) František **Ružička**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Slovakia the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jerry **Matjila**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations

16-14367 (E) 230816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Slovakia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Co-chairs' statement

High-level dialogue on building support for key security sector reform priorities in the Central African Republic

Introduction

The co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, Slovakia and South Africa, facilitated a dialogue to build support for security sector reform priorities in the Central African Republic. Held in cooperation with the United Nations, the Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and its secretariat, the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the dialogue provided a unique platform for a high-level discussion among and between the Government of the Central African Republic and the international community on this important area and contributed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2151 (2014), which sets out the guiding principles for international assistance to national security sector reform efforts. The dialogue was organized in two segments. The high-level segment took place on 21 June 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It brought together high-ranking representatives of the Government of the Central African Republic, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) as well as representatives of key partners, including the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, the African Union and bilateral donors. The expert segment of the dialogue was conducted on 22 June and provided a useful opportunity to take forward the themes identified at the New York meeting a day earlier, with particular emphasis on the key elements of national ownership and the importance of national responsibility and political consensus in this regard.

The dialogue focused on two priorities. Firstly, speakers reflected on the elements of the national security sector reform process that are needed to secure lasting peace and prevent a relapse into conflict. Secondly, there was a focus on immediate and long-term reform needs pertaining to security sector institutions, including the police, the gendarmerie, the military and relevant civilian control and oversight bodies. Also, the role of local communities and their capacity to meaningfully participate in the provision of security and fulfil their democratic oversight role was noted.

Observations

Throughout the high-level segment of the dialogue, security sector reform was highlighted as a key tool for preventing relapse into conflict and as such the need was stressed for a strategic approach to security sector reform, consisting of three key elements:

1. Put in place a national policy and governance framework for the security sector

Considering the scope of the challenges and needs facing the security sector, a strategic long-term approach is essential for managing the security sector reform process. In this regard, the security sector reform policy framework should set out the security sector reform commitments, with a common understanding that a failure to progressively implement this framework will increase the likelihood of relapse into conflict.

Such a national security policy would include tangible steps towards developing a viable governance framework for the security sector. Increased accountability of the armed and security forces and the establishment of appropriate mechanisms and tools for parliament and local communities/civil society to exercise oversight will be crucial. To establish a system of democratic governance, it will be important to initiate and sustain consultations on an appropriate formula for decentralization and regional/local administration of security as means of introducing mechanisms for the devolution of power and as means for sustainable extension of State authority beyond Bangui; United Nations support to security sector reform in post-conflict environments has demonstrated that the process of separation of powers between political and military leaders, while a precondition for civilian control and oversight, is often a slow and gradual process. Hence, in the immediate aftermath of conflict, leaders of armed groups may view integration as an assurance policy and tool to secure immediate participation in the post-conflict political process. To avoid the creation of large and ultimately unsustainable armed forces, dialogue on security sector integration should, from the onset, go beyond military integration and lay the ground for the emergence of security governance throughout the country.

Indicators of progress could include: political accountability for leading a reform process in accordance with agreed objectives and principles, including those agreed during the Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation in the Central African Republic; increased representation within armed and internal security forces according to ethnicity, regional representation, gender and religion; effective decision-making within national security coordination and policymaking as an indicator of political will for security sector reform, the establishment of a dedicated monitoring and evaluation capacity within the coordination structure to enable impact-oriented evaluation, and the enhanced participation of local communities in security sector policymaking and decision-making.

2. Lay the ground for the effective functioning, professionalism and internal accountability of security institutions, in particular the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), the gendarmerie and the police

Identify and undertake tangible steps towards right-sizing the security sector as a prerequisite for its sustainability and professionalization. Additionally, put in place an appropriate and clear delineation between the roles and responsibilities of FACA, the police and the gendarmerie and take visible steps to demonstrate the application of agreed roles. Adopt a code of conduct for uniformed personnel and support its application as a means of enhancing trust with citizens and as a mechanism for developing a culture of internal accountability and professionalism. The establishment of Inspector-General functions and the empowerment of their offices would be an important step in the right direction. Implement a police

development programme, with immediate focus on rehabilitating and equipping the police and gendarmerie training institutions.

3. **Enhance coordination of international support, including of MINUSCA support, to the national security sector reform process within a mutual accountability framework (compact)**

Key security sector reform indicators should be included in a mutual accountability framework between the Government and the international community to facilitate the allocation of international support to clearly defined national goals. A mechanism for donor coordination, under national leadership, should facilitate the coherence of support. As a first step, the Government needs to articulate needs and define its funding strategy, including from domestic resources. Indicators of effective coordination of international support may include evidence that the Government engages with donors and partners in a transparent and predictable manner, thus building confidence and sustaining international support for its reform programme.

Follow-up action

This high-level dialogue on building support for key security sector reform priorities in the Central African Republic has confirmed the importance of creating a dedicated space for exchanging and discussing the most pressing challenges and opportunities for security sector reform in countries emerging from conflict. For the purpose of contributing to the implementation of immediate security sector reform priorities as the basis for sustaining peace and enabling peacebuilding and recovery to take place in the Central African Republic, we commit ourselves to:

- Presenting this co-chairs' statement to the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission
- Presenting this co-chairs' statement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation to relevant United Nations agencies and departments
- Requesting that the co-chairs of the high-level dialogue receive a detailed report of the event, including the expert-level discussions
- Encouraging the use of the observations contained in the present document to inform the development of a comprehensive support plan for security sector reform in the Central African Republic to be presented at the upcoming donors' conference in Brussels
- Convening a discussion of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform to follow up on the status of the recommendations contained herein, to ensure continued support to the security sector reform process in the Central African Republic by the international community
- In keeping with Security Council resolution 2151 (2014), we encourage the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive reporting on security sector reform implementation, taking into account the specific objectives and indicators discussed, and in particular to bring to the attention of the Council any developments that may undermine prospects for their fulfilment, as those may contribute to heightening the risk for relapse into conflict.